

## Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 MC-01 OMB-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 /085 W

----- 066581

R 171015Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 639

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 212

PARIS FOR MELONE AND HELMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, ML, UV

SUBJ: DEFUSING MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE

1. EMBASSY BAMAKO BELIEVES THAT MALI AND UPPER VOLTA ARE LOCKED INTO POSITIONS WHICH MAKES CONTINUED CONFRONTATION INEVITABLE UNLESS SOME MOTIVATION CAN BE SUPPLIED TO ENCOURAGE BOTH COUNTRIES TO RESOLVE BORDER ISSUE PEACEABLY. SINCE DISPUTED BORDER AREA WAS UNDEFINED AT TIME OF INDEPENDENCE, OAU PRINCIPLE OF RECOGNIZING COLONIAL BORDERS DOES NOT HELP RESOLVE ISSUE. GLOOMY PROSPECT NOW IS FOR MALIANS TO CONTINUE MILITARY OCCUPATION OF DISPUTED AREA AND FOR UPPER VOLTANS TO EXPAND MILITARY FORCES FOR FUTURE FACE-OFF WITH MALIAN TROOPS. SUCH AN EVOLUTION IS CLEARLY AGAINST INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES, AMONG THE POOREST IN THE WORLD AND ONLY NOW RECOVERING FROM FOUR YEARS OF

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DEVASTATING DROUGHT. RENEWED FIGHTING WILL DEplete

MEAGER RESOURCES AND HAMPER MAJOR AID PROJECTS NOW GETTING UNDERWAY IN MALI AND UPPER VOLTA. (FOR EXAMPLE BY RESTRICTING TRAVEL TO CERTAIN AREAS IN MALI.)

2. EMBASSY BAMAKO BELIEVES IT CLEARLY IN INTEREST OUTSIDE POWERS PARTICULARLY MAJOR SAHEL AID DONORS TO REFUSE SELL ANY ARMS TO EITHER SIDE. BRINGING UPPER VOLTAN MILITARY STRENGTH TO PARITY WITH MALI WILL ENCOURAGE ARMED CONFLICT BY UPPER VOLTANS WHILE ACCEPTING STATUS QUO WILL ENCOURAGE CONTINUED MILITARY OCCUPATION BY SUPERIOR MALIAN FORCE ENSURING UPPER VOLTAN INVESTMENT IN ARMS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT RATHER THAN IN SORELY NEEDED DEVELOPMENT EFFORT.

3. GIVEN THESE BLEAK PROSPECTS EMBASSY WONDERS IF COORDINATED, MULTI-DONOR APPEAL TO BOTH COUNTRIES TO SOLVE ISSUE WITHIN REGIONAL FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL MIGHT DEFUSE BORDER ISSUE. FOR EXAMPLE, DONORS MIGHT OFFER DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE FOR LIPTAKO-GOURMA REGION (WHICH INCLUDES DISPUTED AREA) CONTINGENT ON FOLLOWING: (A) WITHDRAWAL ALL MILITARY FORCES FROM DISPUTED AREA; (B) AGREEMENT TO JOINTLY DEVELOP AND SHARE RESOURCES DISPUTED AREA WITHIN REGIONAL FRAMEWORK; AND, (C) AGREEMENT TO ADMINISTER DISPUTED AREA THROUGH LIPTAKO-GOURMA AUTHORITY OR OTHER SUITABLE REGIONAL BODY SUCH AS NIGER RIVER COMMISSION. DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE MIGHT INCLUDE: (A) INCREASED TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR LIPTAKO-GOURMA AUTHORITY OR NIGER RIVER COMMISSION; (B) EXHAUSTIVE GEOLOGIC SURVEY OF AREA WITH IDEA THAT EVEN IF NO MINERAL RESOURCES ARE FOUND, THIS IN ITSELF WOULD ASSIST IN DEFUSING ISSUE; (C) RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOR INHABITANTS OF DISPUTED ZONE; AND, (D) COMMITMENT TO LONGER TERM REGIONAL PROJECT SUCH AS FADA N'GOURMA ROAD FOLLOWING EVIDENCE THAT BOTH COUNTRIES WERE SUPPORTING REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION DISPUTED ZONE AND HAD WITHDRAWN THEIR OWN TROOPS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WHILE PRECISE NATURE DONOR REGIONAL PROPOSAL COULD VARY, WOULD APPRECIATE ADDRESSEES REACTION  
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TO THIS GENERAL APPROACH.  
MCGUIRE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BORDER INCIDENTS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750018-0971  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEFUSING MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE  
**TAGS:** PBOR, ML, UV  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006